

***Eureka* Stop**

#11 Steam Juggernaut

When you step into in the engine room of the ferryboat *Eureka* you are taking a step back in time. Imagine *Eureka's* engine during its heyday of operation in the 1930s.

Stepping inside, it is hard not to feel insignificant. The engine is of a type referred to as a walking beam steam engine. It gets this name from the diamond shaped beam mounted at its top that rocks back and forth like a see-saw. This titan of an engine is five stories tall, has a single cylinder of 65 inch bore and 12 foot stroke, and two 27 foot diameter paddle wheels.

However, despite these dinosaur-like proportions, without its crew the engine would remain silent and *Eureka* immobile. Upon climbing down to the deepest part of the engine room, you see two crewmen toil at *Eureka's* boilers. You notice that they keep a wary watch on the steam and water gauges and every so often they jump to some seemingly offending valve and nudge it one way or the other. Elsewhere, you notice other crew scampering back and forth and up and down the five story engine. Wherever an extra bit of lubricating oil is required they are on hand to administer it.

Overseeing these crewmen are the chief and first engineers. They are standing watch on a perch-like platform which gives them access to the all important engine controls. You see one of them slaving away with a long metal bar, pushing it up and down, to manually open and close a series of valves to start the engine. It looks easy, but only a practiced hand with the right amount of finesse can get the engine started correctly.

Finally, you notice the swishing white noise of the paddle wheels churning through the water and you hear a breath-like whoosh as steam exerts itself within this juggernaut of an engine.

Upon stepping back onto the main deck, this world slowly fades to silence as the present day reasserts itself. *Eureka* may not steam again, but her engine will always tell us of the 57 years that it did.